



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF : Jason Meyer, *et al.*
U.S. SERIAL NO. : 10/047,056
FILED : January 14, 2002
FOR : SEQUENTIAL PLACEMENT OF
GROUPS OF SYMBOLS GAMING
MACHINE
ART UNIT: : 3713
EXAMINER: : Robert J. Mendoza
DOCKET NO.: : 76867/20092

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Washington, D.C. 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel original claims 1-18 and replace with the following new claims 19-36.

19. (New) A gaming machine comprising:
- a display, the display including means adapted for displaying an array area having at least two dimensions;
 - means adapted for defining at least one sub-portion of the array area as a pay area;
 - means adapted for generating, from a pre-selected set of visible symbols, a plurality of visible symbol groups, each visible symbol group being formed from a set of at least two contiguously disposed visible symbols;